



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
*1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

February 19, 2004

Representative Kelli Linville, Chair  
House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee  
328 John L. O'Brien Bldg  
Post Office Box 40600  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Linville,

I am writing as chair of the State Board of Health to express my support for Substitute Senate Bill 6636, concerning the disposal of animal carcasses, which your committee is scheduled to hear tomorrow.

All agencies with authority in the area of animal disposal would agree we need a clear, consistent state policy. That policy should be developed through an interagency collaboration and should consider federal recommendations. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy makes this bill especially timely, but it would be my hope that the workgroup also will look at other diseases, such as avian flu, where the disposal of infected carcasses may be an issue.

The original bill called for the Department of Health to adopt rules for disposing of animals with spongiform encephalopathy if federal regulations are found to be insufficient. The statutory authority for chapter 246-230 WAC, however, derives from the Board's powers and duties as described in RCW 43.20.050. The Board and the Department agreed that future rule making should be consistent with the current regulatory framework and proposed amendment language. The language of the substitute bill reflects the recommended change. I can therefore support the bill without reservations.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Linda Lake, Chair  
Washington State Board of Health

cc: Senator Marilyn Rasmussen  
Senator Dan Swecker  
Members, House Agriculture & Resources Committee  
Members, Washington State Board of Health  
Mich'l Needham, Governor's Office of Health Policy  
Steve Meyer, Department of Health  
Leslie Emerick, Department of Agriculture  
Ted Sturdevant, Department of Ecology